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MEDIA FACT SHEET

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Census proves more of the domestic workload is shouldered by women

- Women do more than twice as many hours of unpaid domestic work as men, according to responses to a new question included in the 2006 Census. A little more than one in three women (35%) reported doing heavy amounts (15+ hours) of unpaid domestic work each week, compared to 12% of men.
- Slightly more than half (53%) the men in Australia reported doing less than 5 hours or no unpaid domestic work per week, while this was true of slightly less than one-third (31%) of women.
- In capital cities, 22% of Sydneysiders reported doing no domestic work, compared to only 15% of Canberrans. At the other extreme, 11% of people in Hobart did 30 or more hours a week of unpaid domestic work, compared to only 9% of Canberrans.

Young people

- Young people do the least amount of domestic work. Just over a quarter of people aged 15–29 (27%) did five or more hours of unpaid domestic work each week, while 26% of this age group did no work at all.
- The biggest difference in hours spent on unpaid domestic work was between young men and women who were parents. Just under 80% of mothers aged 15–29 years did more than 5 hours of housework, while 43% of fathers of the same age did 5 or more hours of domestic work in the week prior to the Census.
- Parents aged 15–29 did more housework than other people of the same age – 68% did 5 or more hours of domestic work. Young people living in couple-only households also did more hours of domestic work than most other young people – 53% did five or more hours per week.
- This is the first time ABS has included a question on unpaid domestic work in the Census. The results will assist in understanding the contribution of unpaid work to Australian society.
- Comprehensive information about time use, including time spent on domestic and other unpaid work, will be available from the ABS Time Use Survey. These results will be released in late 2007.

NB: The figures in this fact sheet apply to those aged 15 and over and exclude overseas visitors. Where an answer to a question has not been provided (i.e. not stated) these occurrences form a separate category in the data and therefore some percentages do not total to 100%.

Source: ABS 2006 Census.

Table 1. 2006 Census: Unpaid domestic work, states and territories

	NSW %	Vic. %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas. %	NT %	ACT %	Aust. %
Males									
Nil hours	26.0	25.8	23.7	24.2	24.9	24.3	24.7	18.3	25.1
Less than 5 hours	27.9	28.7	28.3	27.3	28.4	25.7	25.9	32.4	28.2
5 to 14 hours	23.4	24.0	24.8	26.1	24.2	25.6	23.4	29.9	24.3
15 to 29 hours	7.1	7.0	7.5	8.4	6.8	8.8	6.8	8.3	7.3
30 hours or more	4.3	4.0	4.6	5.0	4.1	5.8	3.4	3.5	4.4
Females									
Nil hours	16.5	16.2	13.7	15.2	14.3	15.4	14.9	11.0	15.4
Less than 5 hours	15.3	15.7	15.3	14.0	14.9	12.8	17.7	19.2	15.3
5 to 14 hours	23.7	23.8	25.4	25.3	24.7	24.3	27.4	30.8	24.4
15 to 29 hours	16.5	16.4	17.3	18.4	17.0	18.2	14.4	18.1	16.9
30 hours or more	18.2	18.4	19.0	19.0	19.4	20.6	13.0	14.5	18.5
Persons									
Nil hours	21.2	20.9	18.6	19.6	19.5	19.7	19.9	14.6	20.2
Less than 5 hours	21.4	22.0	21.7	20.5	21.6	19.0	21.9	25.6	21.6
5 to 14 hours	23.5	23.9	25.1	25.7	24.5	24.9	25.3	30.4	24.4
15 to 29 hours	11.9	11.8	12.5	13.5	12.0	13.6	10.5	13.3	12.2
30 hours or more	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.2	11.9	13.5	8.1	9.1	11.6

Table 2. 2006 Census: Unpaid domestic work, capital cities(a)

	Sydney %	Melbourne %	Brisbane %	Adelaide %	Perth %	Hobart %	Darwin %	Canberra %
Males								
Nil hours	26.8	26.3	22.7	24.3	24.9	22.9	21.8	18.3
Less than 5 hours	29.4	29.6	30.7	28.1	29.4	27.5	26.6	32.4
5 to 14 hours	22.6	23.7	25.7	26.3	24.5	26.5	25.2	30.0
15 to 29 hours	6.1	6.4	7.2	8.1	6.6	8.4	7.2	8.4
30 hours or more	3.3	3.4	3.9	4.5	3.7	4.9	3.5	3.5
Females								
Nil hours	17.3	16.7	13.4	15.6	14.6	15.1	11.8	11.0
Less than 5 hours	17.0	17.0	17.4	15.2	15.9	14.8	16.5	19.2
5 to 14 hours	23.9	24.2	26.4	26.1	25.3	26.2	29.3	30.8
15 to 29 hours	15.3	15.7	17.0	17.8	16.8	17.8	15.8	18.1
30 hours or more	16.0	16.7	17.3	17.4	18.2	17.5	14.1	14.5
Persons								
Nil hours	21.9	21.4	17.9	19.8	19.6	18.8	17.0	14.6
Less than 5 hours	23.0	23.1	23.8	21.4	22.5	20.9	21.7	25.6
5 to 14 hours	23.3	24.0	26.0	26.1	24.9	26.3	27.2	30.4
15 to 29 hours	10.8	11.2	12.2	13.1	11.8	13.3	11.3	13.4
30 hours or more	9.8	10.3	10.8	11.2	11.1	11.5	8.6	9.1

(a) Capital City Statistical Division.

Table 3. 2006 Census: Unpaid domestic work by age

	Age group (years)				
	15-29 %	30-44 %	45-59 %	60-74 %	75 and over %
Nil hours	25.8	13.7	16.3	22.2	32.9
Less than 5 hours	36.4	20.7	17.9	11.2	8.5
5 to 14 hours	18.7	29.0	30.1	21.1	14.1
15 to 29 hours	4.4	14.1	16.1	16.2	10.6
30 hours or more	3.9	14.7	12.2	17.8	12.1

Table 4. 2006 Census: Unpaid domestic work, young people in private dwellings, Australia

Hours worked	Persons aged 15-29 years					
	Parent	Couple without children	Dependent student, non-dependent child	Lone person	Group household member	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Males						
Less than 5 hours	53.1	58.9	82.7	61.4	70.8	73.0
5 hours or more	42.9	39.3	8.7	34.7	24.8	20.0
Females						
Less than 5 hours	16.8	35.7	77.1	51.5	62.0	62.0
5 hours or more	79.4	62.8	15.1	45.7	35.1	32.8
Persons						
Less than 5 hours	27.9	45.7	80.1	57.0	66.7	67.6
5 hours or more	68.3	52.7	11.6	39.7	29.5	25.9

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